



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

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June 19, 2019

**SUBJECT: SEIZED DRUG CASE ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

Recent trends in the content of street drugs and the rise of fentanyl and fentanyl-related drugs has precipitated an increase in concern for officer safety and a decline in the use of field test kits, resulting in drastic increases in case submissions. Increased submissions have placed a strain on Washington State Patrol (WSP) Crime Laboratory resources. In order to balance the needs of our customers with the available resources, and to be able to provide timely service to all Crime Laboratory Division (CLD) customers, the CLD establishes the following criteria for the submission of seized drugs.

- The CLD will analyze and report one exhibit per suspect for possession cases. If the Request for Laboratory Examination (RFLE) does not clearly state the offense, it will be assumed to be a possession case.
- When multiple offenses are involved over a number of days, agencies should submit separate requests based on offense date.
- When multiple suspects are involved with multiple exhibits, agencies should list submitted items on the RFLE in order of priority, and state the suspect associated with each item.
- For cases other than simple possession (e.g. delivery, trafficking, burglary, homicide), agencies should contact the Materials Analysis supervisor to discuss the case, how many items are needed for analysis, and what the priority of analysis will be. Limited additional exhibits may be analyzed under these conditions after consultation with the Materials Analysis supervisor.
- Samples submitted where concerns of public safety need to be addressed, the submitting agency should contact the Materials Analysis supervisor to ensure the laboratory analyzes the appropriate samples in a timely fashion.
- Cases submitted for rush analysis will require an actual court date and shall be accompanied by an email or letter from the prosecuting attorney.

The purpose of limiting submissions to one exhibit per suspect is to balance resources to be able to accommodate the needs of all CLD customers and to strive toward the goal of a 30-day or less turn-around time for seized drug cases. Customer cooperation in not overloading the system is a critical part of ensuring resources meet customer needs throughout the state.

This will not only assist us with getting more timely service to our customers but will hopefully build better communications/working relationships that can help all parties in achieving our goals. As always, any questions, concerns, or case-by-case justification for exceptions to this policy can be directed to the Materials Analysis supervisor of the laboratory where the cases are submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Lawrence".

Mr. Gene Lawrence, Commander  
Crime Laboratory Division

